

Message Text

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64

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-20 HEW-08 SCI-06 NEA-14 H-03

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6234

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

UNCLAS GENEVA 3527

FOR OIH/DHEW AND IO/HDC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, TBIO, WHO

SUBJECT: HELICOPTER SUPPORT FOR SMALLPOX ERADICATION IN
ETHIOPIA

REFERENCES: (A) GENEVA 2707, (B) ADDIS 4875, (C) STATE 090928

SUMMARY. WHO IS MOUNTING INTENSIFIED EFFORT TERMINATE SMALLPOX TRANSMISSION WORLDWIDE BY END CY 1974 AND FOR THIS PURPOSE URGENTLY REQUIRES SUPPORT OF TWO HELICOPTERS FOR PROGRAM IN ETHIOPIA DURING FINAL QUARTER THIS YEAR. REQUEST IS MADE THAT THIS SUPPORT BE PROVIDED BY USG AND MISSION RECOMMENDS FAVORABLE DECISION.

1. REFTTEL A REPORTED THAT SMALLPOX ERADICATION IN ETHIOPIA FACES OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES IN EASTERN PARTS OF GOJJAM AND BEGEMDIR PROVINCES AND WESTERN WOLLO PROVINCE DUE TO DIFFICULT TERRAIN AND DISSEMINATION OF DISREAS BECAUSE OF MIGRATION OF POPULATION DUE TO DROUGHT. WHO BELIEVED SUBSTANTIAL CONTROL COULD BE ACHIEVED IF HELICOPTER SUPPORT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR MONTH OF MAY TO FERRY SANITARIANS AND INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER WORKERS INTO PROBLEM AREAS AND TO TRANSFER THEM FROM POINT TO POINT WITHIN AREA EVERY TWO TO FIVE DAYS. NEED FOR HELICOPTER ASSISTANCE WAS SEEN AS URGENT BECAUSE RAINS IN THESE AREAS STOP WORK FROM EARLY JUNE TO SEPTEMBER. SPECIFIC PROPOSAL WAS MADE THAT ONE OF THE HELICOPTERS BEING PROVIDED BY USAID FOR ETHIOPIA

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NUTRITION SURVEY BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT SMALLPOX PROGRAM

DURING MAY BUT WAS NOT APPROVED (REFTELS B AND C).

2. SMALLPOX ERADICATION IN ETHIOPIA DID NOT MAKE THE PROGRESS HOPED FOR IN MAY AND WHO NOW PLANS TO MOUNT INTENSIVE EFFORT BEGINNING OCTOBER TO END DECEMBER IN REMAINING ENDEMIC AREAS WITH OBJECTIVE OF STOPPING SMALLPOX TRANSMISSION BY END OF YEAR. TWO HELICOPTERS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD AND WHO REQUEST THAT USG CONSIDER PROVIDING THIS SUPPORT.

3. THIS SPECIAL EFFORT FOR ETHIOPIA IS PART OF INTENSIFIED PROGRAM BEING LAUNCHED UNDER WHO LEADERSHIP IN ALL REMAINING SMALLPOX ENDEMIC AREAS OF THE WORLD - NAMELY PARTS OF PAKISTAN, INDIA, BANGLADESH AND ETHIOPIA - WITH OBJECTIVE OF ACHIEVING GLOBAL ERADICATION BY END OF 1974. WHO EXPERTS STATE THAT THIS WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE IN ETHIOPIA WITHOUT SUPPORT TO TWO HELICOPTERS FOR THE FINAL QUARTER OF 1974.

4. COMMENT: THIS WHO REQUEST IS PRESENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH OFFICIALS OF THAT ORGANIZATION DURING RECENT WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, BY DHEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH CHARLES EDWARDS, TOGETHER WITH CONGRESSMEN PAUL ROGERS AND TIM LEE CARTER.ABRAMS

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Message Attributes

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